AC 4461 (1) PONTEFRACT

Borough of Pontefract.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended December 31st, 1923.

PONTEFRACT :
F. H. W. Holmes, Printer, "Advertiser" Office.
1924.

BRITISH MUSEUM
66

Medical Officer's Report

For Year ended December 31st, 1923.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Pontefract.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present, for your information and consideration, my Second Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1923.

I.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

(a) The **area** of the Borough as given by the Registrar General is 4,078 acres (land and inland water together). The approximate acreages of the Wards of the Borough are as follows:—

WARD		ACREAGE.
No 1.	West	1,198
No. 2.	North	640
No. 3.	East	707
No. 4.	South	861
No. 5.	Mill Hill	623
No. 6.	Central	49
	Total ...	4,078

(b) **Population.** The number given by the Registrar General is 17,630.

(c) The number of inhabited houses is 3,382.

(d) The number of families or separate occupiers is estimated as 3,650.

(e) The Rateable Value of the Borough is £113,727.

(f) The sum represented by a penny rate is £363.

(g) District Rate Assessable Value £94,201.

II.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Births:—

			M.	F.
Legitimate	...	450	242	208
Illegitimate	...	24	9	15
Total Births	...	474	251	223

This gives a birth rate per 1000 total population of 26.9 as compared with 27.6 in 1922 and 30.5 in 1921.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth:—

(1) From Sepsis ... 1
(2) From other causes ... 3

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 births:—
107.6; 1922, 112.4; 1921, 121.3.

		M.	F.
Legitimate	...	30	18
Illegitimate	...	2	1
Total ...		32	19

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 1 ... rate per 1000 ... .05
,, ,, Whooping Cough ,, 1 ... ,, ... .05
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 5 ... ,, ...10.55

The total registered deaths, after transfers, were 224; 1922, 247.

86 of these were over 60 years of age.
34 ,, ,, 45 ,,
51 ,, ,, under 1 year of age.

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III.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

		Total cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	...	1	1	—
Diphtheria	...	3	3	—
Scarlet Fever	...	51	48	—
Enteric Fever	...	2	2	—
Puerperal Fever	...	2	1	1
Pneumonia	...	12	—	—
Erysipelas	...	11	—	—

Tuberculosis :—

Pulmonary—Males		...	10
Females		...	10
	Total	...	20
Non-Pulmonary—Males		...	4
Females		...	1
	Total	...	5

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. 1 case treated at home. Vision unimpaired.

IV.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Scarlet Fever has been prevalent during the whole year. The cases have occurred in the months as follows :—

January	... 3	July	... 2
February	... 0	August	... 2
March	... 2	September	... 5
April	... 1	October	... 6
May	... 2	November	... 10
June	... 2	December	... 16

As will be seen, the cases were occurring during the whole year and reached the maximum in December. The epidemic commenced in Tanshelf and was of a very mild type. Several cases were not recognised until the peeling stage. This fact was probably the cause of a great many of the cases in November and December, as a child was discovered who had been away from school and had the disease over a month and had played with other children. Many of the later cases were much more

severe and of a toxic type. Eight of the cases were over twenty years of age. Several examinations were made at Tanshelf Mixed School to find a possible carrier, with no result.

Very few cases of Whooping Cough or Measles have occurred during the year.

It has not been necessary to close any of the Schools.

Cases of Small Pox:—

On the 16th May a case of Small Pox occurred at 3, Reams Terrace. Steps were immediately taken to notify the Ministry of Health, the Medical Officers of Health of the surrounding districts, the Medical Practitioners in the town and the Medical Officer of the Small Pox Hospital at Sherburn-in-Elmet. Owing to the late arrival of the horse ambulance, with no nurse, also the tired condition of the horse, the patient was not removed until next morning. All the contacts of the patient, after his arrival here, were vaccinated by the Public Vaccinator, Dr. E. B. Osmond, or myself, and kept under daily observation for 16 days. No further cases arose. The history obtained pointed to the disease being contracted in Gloucester, where an epidemic of the disease was occurring.

V.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, ETC.

The Pontefract and District Nursing Association, which is maintained by voluntary subscriptions, has rendered valuable aid both for surgical and medical cases during the year.

Two midwives, who are very efficient, practise in the Borough. They are not employed by and receive no subsidy from the local authority.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, under the West Riding County Council, has been held in Linden Terrace over the Tuberculosis Dispensary. A Committee of Ladies has been formed and it is hoped to transfer the Centre very shortly to more commodious quarters.

School Clinic, Baghill School, Walkergate, is held daily during school days at 10 a.m., under the Local Education Authority. A Dental Clinic will be opened shortly at the same place.

Tuberculosis Dispensary, Linden Terrace, under the W.R.C.C., Tuesdays and Fridays.

Venereal Diseases Clinics at Clayton Hospital, Wakefield, and Leeds General Infirmary.

Tuberculosis	...	Noted locally.
Maternity	...	do.
Children	...	do.

Fever. Pontefract Joint Isolation Hospital takes cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever and Puerperal Fever.

Small Pox. Sherburn-in-Elmet Joint Hospital.

Unmarried mothers and Illegitimate Children. The Haven, Southgate.

Ambulance Facilities. For infectious cases, a motor ambulance is available at the Joint Isolation Hospital.

For non-infectious and accident cases, the motor ambulance of the St. John Ambulance Brigade is excellent.

In necessitous cases the Public Authority bear the cost.

Laboratory Work.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out by the West Riding County Authorities at Wakefield. A stock of diphtheria antitoxin is held in readiness for immediate use by any of the local medical practitioners on application to me. This is in quantities suitable for prophylactic use or early treatment pending the result of bacteriological examination or admission to hospital.

VI.—ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act 1890.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890.

The Private Streets Works Act 1892.

The Public Health Act Amendment Act 1907, Parts II, III, IV, V and X.

The Public Libraries Acts.

The Baths and Washhouses Acts.

Bye-laws.

New Streets and Buildings, 5th February, 1924.

Good Rule and Government, 15th February, 1905, 24th November, 1908, and 5th September, 1912.

Drainage of Existing Buildings, 3rd October, 1908.

Preventing the Waste, Undue Consumption, Misuse or Contamination of Water, 3rd October, 1908.

Nuisances, 1st December, 1908.

Slaughter Houses, 14th January, 1909.

Common Lodging Houses, 12th February, 1909.

Offensive Trades, 5th May, 1909.

Education (School Attendance), 10th October, 1907.

Employment of Children and Young Persons, 1st October, 1921.

Public Baths, 12th November, 1923.

Regulations.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops, 1st May, 1902.

VII.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(1) Water Supply:—

The quality of the water has been good, no examination of it has been necessary during the year. Some complaints have been received of shortage of water owing to insufficient pressure in the higher levels of the town, notably King's Mead and Mill Hill Lane. I understand the Water Committee have this matter in hand. I should like to appeal to the public to take every means to conserve the water supply by firstly not using the water unnecessarily, and secondly by having leaking taps or cisterns repaired at once, and thus prevent waste.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

The new Sewerage Works continue to work satisfactorily. During heavy rain, and after storms, they have too large a volume of sewage to deal with, owing to the large quantity of surface water finding its way into the sewers, also a large quantity of grit and sludge is carried down, tending to interfere with the efficient working. A partial surface water drainage scheme is contemplated, with a view to relieving this, of Wakefield Road,

Mill Hill and Newgate. This should also relieve the flooding which takes place at Town End. The drainage of the Toll Hill district has been a constant source of worry during the year. The system of cesspools, at all times unsatisfactory, and the difficulties of efficient emptying, have led to numerous complaints from the residents. These should be replaced by some drainage scheme.

Armstrong Terrace has been re-drained during the year.

(3) **Closet Accommodation:—**

	1923	1922
No. of Pail or Tub Closets ...	20	20
No. of Privies with covered middens	400	402
No. of Water Closets ...	2504	2464
No. of Waste Water Closets ...	240	240
No. of Privies reconstructed during 1923 as W.Cs. ...	8	54
No. of Closets constructed for New Houses, W.Cs.	32	196
Ditto ditto, Other	0	0

(4) **Scavenging:—**

There has been no change during the year. The work is performed by the Council.

Disposal of refuse:—

	1923	1922
(a) Destructor ...	4472	4461 loads.
(b) Tips ...	3643	3632 ,,
(c) Farmers ...	478	487 ,,
Total annual cost	£2,916/0/7	£6,399/7/0

There is still great difficulty in having the street sweeping done, in my opinion, in a satisfactory manner. This is largely due to the great amount of litter which is thrown about. The market sets a bad example, and some means should be taken to deal with its refuse as it occurs and not allowed to be blown to the end of the town if a wind arises. I again appeal to the public not to throw litter in the streets, for apart from being unsightly, it tends to block gullies and encourages flies.

(5) **Dairies and Cowsheds:—**

No. of Cowkeepers 22. Registered 22.

No. of Retail Milk Sellers who are also cowkeepers 22.

No. who are Milk Retailers only 7.

Total number of Milk Sellers 29.

The Cowsheds have been examined and found satisfactory.

(6) **Slaughter Houses:—**

Licensed 11, Registered 2.

These are satisfactory and are kept well lime-washed. The selling of meat in the streets on the Saturday is to be deprecated. It would be more satisfactory to provide stalls in the covered market. The quality of the meat sold could be better supervised, and the risk of infection of the meat by dust and flies would be much less.

(7) **Bakehouses.** Number 11. Satisfactory.

(8) **Elementary Schools** have been visited by me. The sanitation was satisfactory, but extra closet accommodation was asked for at the Baghill Council School.

(9) **Factories and Workshops:—**

The nuisance caused by fumes from the "Muck-stack" at the Prince of Wales Colliery, has been many times complained of by the residents in the vicinity. The management has been met and an assurance was given by them that the nuisance would be reduced to a minimum, and that the tipping of refuse would be moved to a position further away from the houses and out of the direction of the prevalent wind. It was pointed out that the heaps are set alight by spontaneous combustion which cannot be avoided, and that to abate the nuisance totally would interfere with the working of the mines.

The Inspector of Nuisances' Annual Report is attached. His duties have been carried out expeditiously and in a satisfactory manner.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

W. T. Hessel, Medical Officer of Health (part time).
A. B. Jackson, Sanitary Inspector (full time).

IX.—HOUSING.

No. of houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total 8 (by Private Builders).

(b) Housing Schemes 0.

(A) Unfit Dwellinghouses (Inspection):—

(1) Total Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)—79.

(2) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation—14.

(3) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation—0.

(B) Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority—34.

(C) Action under Statutory Powers:—

(a) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing and Town Planning Act 1919:—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs—26.

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit (a) by owners—19; (b) Local Authority in default of owners—0.

(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which closing orders in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close were made—0.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—73.

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied:

(a) By owners—53.

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners—0.

(c) Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act 1909:

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders—0.

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which closing orders were made—0.

(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwellinghouse having been rendered fit—0.

(4) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—0.

(5) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—0.

Private Street Acts:—

Excellent improvements have been made to some of the streets in Tanshelf by putting this Act into force. There are still some unpaved and unmade streets which need attention. Good paved streets add greatly to the efficient sanitation of the houses.

Statistical tables attached.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. T. HESSEL,

Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
Enteric Fever	—	—
Small Pox	—	—
Measles	1	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—
Influenza	3	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	4	10
Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	5
Cancer, Malignant Disease	6	9
Rheumatic Fever	—	—
Diabetes	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrage, &c.	3	2
Heart Disease	10	6
Arterio-Sclerosis	7	7
Bronchitis	20	12
Pneumonia (all forms)	12	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duo-denum ...	—	—
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	2	3
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	4	5
Puerperal Sepsis	—	1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	—	3
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth ...	16	9
Suicide	1	—
Other Deaths from Violence	5	2
Other Defined Diseases	15	19
Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	1	—
From all Causes Totals ...	118	106
Deaths of Infants under one year — Total ...	32	19
Deaths of Infants under one year — Illegitimate ...	2	1

Causes of, and ages at Death, during the Year 1923.

CAUSES.	ALL AGES	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—45 years	45—60 years	60 & upwards
Enteric Fever ...									
Small Pox ...									
Measles ...	1	1							
Scarlet Fever ...									
Whooping Cough ...	1			1					
Diphtheria ...									
Influenza ...	5					1	3	1	
Encephalitis Lethargica ...									
Meningococcal Meningitis ...									
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	14	1				3	6	4	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	8		1	3	2		2		
Cancer, Malignant Disease	15						1	6	8
Rheumatic Fever ...									
Diabetes ...	2							1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage. etc.	5								5
Heart Disease ...	16					2	1	5	8
Arterio-sclerosis ...	14						1	3	10
Bronchitis ...	32	10		1	1		1	3	16
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	20	7	1	5	1	2	1		3
Other Respiratory Diseases	2							1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...									
Diarrhœa &c (under 2 years)	5	2	3						
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2							1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1						1		
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	9						2	3	4
Puerperal Sepsis ...	1						1		
Other Accidents & Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition	3	2				1			
Congenital debility & Malformation, premature Birth	25	23	2						
Suicide ...	1							1	
Other Deaths from Violence	7	1					1	5	
Other Defined Diseases ...	34	4				1	1		28
Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	1								1
TOTAL ...	224	51	7	10	4	10	22	34	86

Analysis of Infantile Deaths.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 months & under 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	TOTAL.
All Causes Certified									
Un-Certified									
Small-Pox									
Measles							1		1
Scarlet Fever									
Diphtheria and Croup									
Whooping Cough									
Diarrhœa (all forms)									
Enteritis Muco									
Enteritis Gastro					3	1			4
Gastritis									
Premature Birth	15	1	2						18
Congenital Defects	4	2		1	1				8
Injury at Birth									
Want of Breast Milk, Starvation ...				1					1
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...									
Tuberculous Meningitis ...									
Tuberculous Peritonitis Tabes Mesinterica ...									
Other Tuberculous Diseases							1		1
Erysipelas ..							1		1
Syphilis ...						1			1
Rickets ...									
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)									
Convulsions									
Bronchitis					4	2		2	8
Laryngitis									
Pneumonia	1				1	1	2	2	7
Suffocation, overlaying					1				1
Other Causes ...									
TOTAL	20	3	2	2	10	5	5	4	51

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1923.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population.									Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever	Small-Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under two years)	Total Deaths (under one year)	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases	Uncertified causes of Death
England and Wales ...	19.7	11.6	0.01	0.00	0 14	0.03	0.10	0.07	0.22	0.44	7.7	69	92.0	6.9	1.1
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ...	20.4	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.03	0.12	0.09	0.22	0.40	9.9	72	92.2	7.2	0.6
157 Small Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000) ...	19.8	10.6	0.01	—	0.19	0.02	0.10	0.06	0.21	0.38	6.4	69	92.6	6.1	1.3
London	20.2	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.09	0.13	0.17	0.45	10.2	60	90.8	9.1	0.1
Pontefract	26.9	12.7	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.28	0.39	10.55	107.6	93.75	5.8	0.45

TABLE C.—NUISANCE INSPECTIONS.

Total Number of Inspections made in 1923, for Nuisances only (for Housing Inspections see Table D)	336
Nuisances reported in 1923	36
Nuisances in hand, end of 1922	28
Total needing abatement	64
Abated during 1923	57
Outstanding end of 1923	18
Notices served, Informal	76
Complied with	64
Notices served, Statutory	36
Complied with	30
Total Number of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings	0

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District	No. on Register	Total No. of Inspections made.	General Condition
Common Lodging Houses ...	5	5	20	Good
Knackers' Yards ...	1	1	8	Good
Offensive Trades ...	3	3	12	Good

Drainage and Sewerage.

Any developments during 1923?—No.

Development still needed as to (a) Want of Sewers, Townville, Toll Hill; (b) Improvement of defective sewers, Armstrong Terrace re-drained.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of Privies with Pail or Tub Closets ...	20
No. of Privies with covered middens ...	400
No of Water Closets	2504
Waste-water Closets	240
No. of Privies re-constructed during 1923 as w cs. ... Conversions...	8
No. of Closets constructed in 1923 for new houses—w.cs.	32

Scavenging.

Any change during 1923?—No.

Performed by (a) Council—Yes; (b) Contractor, nil.

How is refuse disposed of?—

No. of loads to (a) Destructor 4472; (b) Tips 3643; (c) Farmers 478.

Total annual cost, £2916/0/7.

Is there any inadequacy, and where?—No.

Any utilization or salvage of waste material?—Yes.

If so, what?—Scrap iron, glass, etc.

Water Supply.

Any developments during 1923?—No.
Was supply restricted in any way?—No.
Any general insufficiency, and where?—No (poor pressure higher parts of town).
Any action in regard to unsatisfactory quality?—No.
Any new sources added?—No.
Any disused sources re-used?—No.

Milk Supply.

Are Two Registers being kept as required by Section 2 (3) of the 1922 Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act (a) for Retailers—Yes; (b) for Cowkeepers, or Wholesale Traders.—Yes.
Have any Licences been granted under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, to distributors of "Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)"?—One.
Have any retailers been removed from the Register? No.
Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1923?—No.
No. of Cowkeepers in district producing and selling milk—22. No Registered—22.
No. of Retail Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers 22.
No. who are Milk Retailers only—7.
Total No. of Retail Milk Sellers Registered—29.
Total No. of Cowsheds—22.
Total No. of Inspections in 1923—22.
Date of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations? —1902. Any Legal Action?—No.

Other Foods.

Any Public Abattoir?—No.
No. of Slaughterhouses—13. No. Registered—2.
No. Licensed—11.
No. of times each Slaughterhouse inspected?—6.
Total No. of Inspections—42.
Bakehouses, No. 11. Total No. of Inspections—20.

Schools.

No. of Schools in district—8. No. visited by M.O.H. —8. Action taken—Disinfection.
Schools closed by M.O.H.—None.

Factories and Workshops.

No. of Smoke Observations taken—12. No. of Cautions—12.

No. of Workshops—40.

No. of times each Workshop was inspected—2.

Total inspections—40.

Any Industrial Welfare Workers appointed—No.

Byelaws and Regulations.

Any Bye-Laws made under Section 26 of Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919, as to houses divided into separate tenements.—No.

Infectious and other Diseases.

Diseases specially prevalent in 1923?—Scarlet Fever.

State months.—November and December.

Any undue prevalence of Venereal Diseases?—No.

Any prevalence of Jaundice, and at what ages?—No.

Hospitals and other Institutions.

(a) General:

Accident—Dispensary, Southgate, Pontefract.

Children—Dispensary, Southgate, Pontefract.

(b) Local:

Infectious, General—Baghill, Pontefract.
Smallpox—Sherburn-in-Elmet.

Any arrangements for nursing Puerperal Fever cases—At the Joint Fever Hospital.

Whether any other disease (e.g. Pneumonia) is treated in Infectious Diseases Hospital.—No.

Tuberculosis.—Procedure by M.O.H. or his staff after notification:—

(1) Inspection of patient's home and workshop—Yes.
(2) Examination for contacts by W.R.C.C.
(3) Is house disinfected?—Yes. When?—After removal of patient.
(4) Leaflets, lectures, etc., distributed.—Yes.
(5) Action re spitting—Advice.
(6) Is sputum examined apart from Dispensary?—No.
(7) Any special procedure adopted in cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis with T.B. in sputum.—Isolation at home or Union Infirmary. Special disinfection of house and bedding.
(8) Are the requirements of Tuberculosis Regulations as to notification observed by general practitioners?—Yes.

Infant Mortality.

What organised effort to control it?—Distribution of leaflets to prevent and destroy flies.

Vital Statistics.

Births during 1923—

Males 251, Females 223, Total 474.

No. illegitimate included in above, 24.

Mortuaries.

What accommodation—(a) for accidents?—Yes, for two bodies.

Sanitary Staff.

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H.?—£100 per annum.

Names of Sanitary Inspector—A. B. Jackson; Annual Salary as Inspector—£200 and bonus; Other appointments held—Shops Inspector.

Any Assistants?—No.

Is Staff sufficient?—Yes.

Does M.O.H. receive copies of Memos. and Circulars distributed by Ministry of Health?—Yes.

TABLE D.—SUMMARY OF HOUSING WORK DURING 1923.

Table showing action under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc,, Act, 1909, Section 28 of the 1919 Act, Section 10 of the 1923 Act, and the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, dated September 2nd, 1910, or matters arising therefrom.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1922—

Houses not reasonably fit for habitation. Section 28, 1919; Section 10, 1923	14
Houses (recorded under "Housing") with minor defects. (Public Health Acts) ...	10
Houses totally unfit (Sections 17 and 18) 1909...	0

Houses inspected for "Housing defects" in 1923 under Acts and Regulations—

Total inspected and recorded	79
Houses found satisfactory on inspection ...	0
Houses needing further action	79

Houses not reasonably fit. Action under Section 28, 1919; Section 10 of 1923—

Houses found with defects	6
Houses of this class remedied without formal notice	6
Houses in regard to which formal notices were served	0
Houses made fit after formal notice	0
Houses in respect of which the Council executed or were executing work in default of owner	0
Houses in regard to which owner elected to close house instead of complying with notices ...	0

Action under Public Health Acts in cases of houses with minor defects not remediable under Section 28, 1919; Section 10 of 1923—

Houses with defects	73
Houses remedied without service of formal notice	34

Houses in regard to which formal notices were served 26

Houses made satisfactory after formal notice ... 19

Unfit Houses.—Actions under Sections 17 or 18, 1909—Nil.

Appeals.—Nil.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1923—

Houses not reasonably fit for habitation. Section 28, 1919; Section 10, 1923 0

Houses (recorded under "Housing") with minor defects. (Public Health Acts) 20

Houses totally unfit. (Sections 17 and 18) 1909 0

Other action in regard to Housing—

Total number of houses in district—3382.

Number of working-class houses—2583.

General standard compared with that of the Minstry of Health in Manual Vol. I., 1919—Good.

Obstructive Buildings.—Any building represented by M.O.H. under Sec. 38 (1) of 1890 Act?—No. Any building represented by Local Government Electors under Sec. 38 (2) of 1890 Act?—No.

Unhealthy Areas. Any representations under part I. or II. of the 1890 Act. If so, give particulars. —No.

Re-Construction Schemes.—Have L.A. directed any to be prepared under Sec. 39 of 1890 Act?—No.

Conversion of House.—Any houses acquired for division into separate tenements, under the 1919 Act? If so, give particulars—No.

Unfit Houses.—Any complaints by Local Government Electors under Section 31 of 1890 Act, as amended by the 1923 Act?—No.

Do. do.—Any complaints by Parish Councils under Section 6 (2) of the Local Government Act, 1894? —No.

Any action under Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 to 1923?—No.

Any scarcity of Houses? If so, where?—General.

Any overcrowding in houses, and where?—General in working-class districts.

Any special activity in house building, and where?—No.

State-aided Housing Schemes.

A. Scheme under 1919 Act.—

Number of houses erected in 1923. (1) By Council—None; (2) By Private Builders' Subsidy—None.

B. Scheme under 1923 Act.—

Have Council propounded a scheme under this Act?—Yes.

Has a scheme been submitted to the Ministry of Health for their approval?—Yes.

Has it been approved?—Yes.

If scheme is approved, please enclose particulars of same.—24 houses, Willow Park Estate, and 10 house, King's Mead Estate.

Total number of houses built in the district under all conditions in 1923—(a) Working-class dwellings, 0; Other, 32.

Town Planning.—

Have Council joined a Regional Town Planning Committee?—No

Have Council passed a resolution in 1923 deciding to prepare a scheme?—No.

Any Scheme contemplated?—No.

BOROUGH OF PONTEFRACT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Year ending December 31st, 1923.

The following is a summary and statement of Sanitary Work carried out during the year.

Notices served for the abatement of Nuisances and other defects ...	112
Reports made to Committee ...	51
Defects roofs to houses ...	18
General repairs under H.T.P. Act ...	23
Houses Reslated	4
Defective Eaves Spoutings and Fall Pipes	44
Defective Sink Waste Pipes ...	6
New Sink replacement ...	1
Defective Dust Bins	27
Repairs to Ashpits	5
Conversions of Privies into Water Closets	8
Liberating Blocked Drains ...	21
Dirty House	1
Repairs to Urinals	5
New Urinal, United Kingdom Inn	1
New Public Urinal for both Sexes, in Shoe Market	1
Houses fitted with Sinks, and Water fitted inside	12

The whole of Armstrong Terrace and Cottages has been redrained.

Overcrowding.—

Five serious cases were dealt with. A Census has been taken in the most overcrowded parts of the town, and 136 houses were found in which two married families were being housed. In many cases grown up boys and girls in their teens are occupying the same bedroom as their parents.

Nuisance.—

Nuisance caused by fumes given off from Muck Stack at the Prince of Wales Colliery. The Management has been met on this matter, and an assurance given that the nuisance would be reduced to a minimum, and that tipping of refuse would be done in another position and further away from the houses at Lady Balk, the result of which will be more noticed in the coming year.

The yard service to 8 houses in Cockpit Lane has been relaid and made so that the surface water is carried off to the drain.

Further progress has been made with paving of private streets in the Well Close district.

Scavenging.—

The scavenging work is carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department. The following summary shows the work done:—

No. of Loads taken to	Destructor	...	4472
,, ,,	Tips	...	3643
,, ,,	Farmers	...	478

Cost ... £2,916/0/7.

Slaughter Houses.—

There are 11 licensed and 2 registered. They are kept in good order and well limewashed.

Common Lodging Houses.—

There are 5 in the town. They are kept clean and in order.

Workshops.—

There are 30 workshops in the town. 11 are bakehouses and 19 are milliners' and dressmakers'.

Milk Supply.—

There are 22 registered cowkeepers and 7 retail purveyors of milk. The approximate number of milch cows in the town is 200, and these are habitually turned into the Park to graze for 6 months of the year.

Infectious Diseases.—

Small Pox	...	1 case.
Scarlet Fever	...	51 cases.
Diphtheria	...	3 ,,
Enteric	...	2 ,,
Puerperal	...	1 case.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		1 ,,
Erysipelas		1 ,,

Cases removed to Hospital—

48	cases of	Scarlet Fever
2	,,	Enteric ,,
2	,,	Diphtheria
1	,,	Small Pox

SHOPS ACTS.

After frequent warnings to some of the smaller shopkeepers they still showed an inclination to disregard the closing orders, and it was found necessary to institute proceedings in four cases.

Prosecutions are very distasteful to the Councils' Officials, but in some cases it seems the only way in which some offenders can be made to understand that the law must not be broken.

A. B. JACKSON.